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CHILDREN'S BUREAU

M O N T H L Y R E L I E F B U L L E T I N -- F E B R U A R Y, 1 9 3 2

By Anne E. Geddes

February Relisf in 123 Cities Exceeds $25,250,000

The February relief total reported by 976 agencies or divisions of departments administering most but not all of the relief in 123 cities was $25,277,952. This is the largest sum reported expended for relief in these cities in any single month in the history of the depression. Relief grants of identicel agencies in January amounted to $23,008,273, and in February,1931, $15,001,186.

55 Per Cent of Urban Population of United States Represented by Reporting Cities

Among the 123 cities contributing to this analysis is included every important industrial center in the United States. The cities range in size from 6,900,000 to 50,000 population; geographically, they are widespread. The aggregate population of the 123 cities is 38,184,322, which is 55 per cent of the total urban population. Approximately half of the population of the 123 cities, however, is concentrated in the 10 largest cities--New York, Chicago, Philadelphia,Detroit, Los Angeles, Cleveland, St. Louis,Baltimore, Boston, and Pittsburgh.

That relief costs per unit of population are far higher in largs cities than in small cities and towns and in rural districts has been well established. It may safely be assumed that a very substantial share of the national relief burden is being shouldsred by the 123 cities for which data are presented herewith.

Sharp and More Than Seasonal Rise Between January and February

Although the volume of relief failed to show a normal rise between December and January, this less than seasonal gain was compensated for by a sharp increase betwsen January and February. Expansion between these two months of 10 per cent in total relisf expenditures is recorded in Table 1 on the following page. With the exception of the Salvation Army, which reported a decline of 22 per cent,every class of agency shows some increase between the two months in amount of relief disbursed. Very substantial increases were reported by the following groups: general public departments, public agencies serving the veteran, and emergency committees.

Greater Increase in Relief Than in Families Aided

While the amount of outright relief given in February by 731 agencies increased 9 per oent over January,the number of families aided by these sams agencies increased but 4 per cent between the two months. In the December-January comparison the opposite relationship between the two series was manifested. A heavy increase in the relief case load in the latter part of January may account to some extent for the reversal. However, thers is probably a definite bookkeeping lag in the series on expenditures which is not present in the series on families aided. Many agencies are known to be reporting bills paid in the current month, rather than relief actually distributed.

Public Relief in February 65 Per Cent of Total

In February,1932, $16,362,941, or 65 per cent of the total expenditures for the month,is classified as public relief. This figure includes all funds expended by public departments and the larger grants from tax funds administered by private agencies. A great many additional private agencies are rsceiving small subsidiss from public funds, but these small subsidiss havs been incompletely reported. In part,they are counterbalanced by private funds distributed by public agencies. If the data could bs compiled by source, rather than by administration of funds, ths percentags of public relief probably would not be appreciably highsr. Figurss for soms individual cities, however, would be significantly affected.

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Table 1. - Number of families aided and amount of relief given in February, 1932, and comparison with February, 1931, and January, 1932

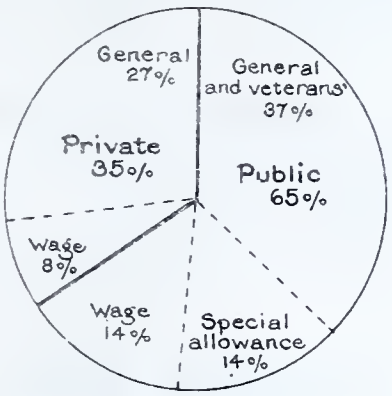
976 agencies or divisions of departments in 123 cities of 50,000 or more population

Type of agency	Number of agencies	Families aided			Amounts given			Per cent change from January, 1932, to February, 1932		Per cent change from February, 1931, to February, 1932	
		February 1931	January 1932	February 1932	February 1931	January 1932	February 1932	Families	Amounts	Families	Amounts
Agencies reporting both families and amounts											
Outright relief											
Public departments											
General relief 1/	86	178,828	250,116	256,769	$4,086,469	$5,187,183	$5,829,173	3	12	44	43
Veterans' relief	32	20,213	31,196	37,463	626,076	751,695	1,012,416	20	35	85	62
Special-allowance groups											
Mothers' aid	84	33,071	38,596	39,036	1,492,221	1,829,092	1,852,036	1	1	18	24
Old-age aid	29	17,582	37,808	39,308	549,137	1,075,996	1,112,440	4	3	124	103
Aid for the blind 2/	32	4,808	5,158	5,176	110,478	108,643	119,562	-	-	8	8
Private agencies 3/											
Nonsectarian family societies	109	104,173	184,225	192,838	1,685,077	2,931,645	3,126,998	5	7	85	86
Jewish agencies	67	8,376	11,228	11,872	297,895	356,527	377,246	6	6	42	27
Catholic agencies	42	15,012	18,946	19,886	216,127	264,364	280,844	5	6	32	30
Veterans' agencies	93	5,676	7,174	7,952	77,457	85,327	91,239	11	7	40	18
Emergency committees	19	8,848	44,326	52,525	75,929	587,242	691,143	18	18	494	810
Salvation Army	79	42,570	37,615	29,548	239,237	276,316	216,671	-21	-22	-31	-9
Other	59	10,438	7,577	7,784	112,234	93,500	96,919	3	4	-25	-14
Total, exclusive of special-allowances and Salvation Army	4/ 507	351,564	554,788	587,089	$7,177,264	$10,257,483	$11,505,978	6	12	67	60
Total	4/ 731	449,595	673,965	700,157	$9,568,337	$13,547,530	$14,806,687	4	9	56	55
Agencies reporting amounts only											
Outright relief											
Public departments	71	-	-	-	$1,458,206	$1,995,241	$2,818,249	-	-	-	-
Private agencies	91	-	-	-	616,154	2,272,706	2,090,881	-	-	-	-
Wage relief											
Public departments	48	-	-	-	1,123,634	3,294,716	3,619,065	-	10	-	222
Private agencies	35	-	-	-	2,234,855	1,898,080	1,943,070	-	2	-	-13
Total wage relief	83	-	-	-	3,358,489	5,192,796	5,562,135	-	7	-	66
Total outright and wage relief reported by all agencies	4/ 976	-	-	-	$15,001,186	$23,008,273	$25,277,952	-	10	-	69

1/ These figures may include some mothers' aid, some aid for the blind, and some veterans' relief.
2/ As some offices administering aid to the blind make quarterly or semiannual payments, the percentage of change from January to February has not been computed.
3/ In several cities private agencies are administering some public funds.
4/ This figure is larger than the sum of individual agencies, as organizations reporting mors than one class of relief are counted more than once.

(continued from page 1)

In the accompanying diagram, the proportions of public and private relief in February,1932, are presented in graphic form. General public relief and public relief to veterans together constitute 37 per cent of the February total. The special-allowance group,which includes mothers' aid, old-age relief, and aid to the blind, comprises 14 per cent of the month's expenditures. Public wage relief amounted to 14 per cent and private wage relief,8 per cent. The remaining 27 per cent was expended by various types of private agencies, mainly by the family case work societies and by the emergency unemployment committees.



TOTAL $25,277,952

PROPORTION OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE RELIEF February, 1932 976 Agencies in 123 Cities

In February of last year the percentage of public relief was 63; special allowances amounted to 15 per cent of the total, and wage relief, both public and private, to 22 per cent.

92 Cities Present Substantially Complete Reports

Listed in Table 2 on pages 4 and 5 are 92 cities for which relief expenditures reported are believed to be substantially complete. However, changes in community relief plans are frequent. Although check has recently been made of the completeness of reporting in each city participating in this study, important amounts of emergency relief may have been omitted from reports in certain instances.

Five Cities Spend More Than $1,000,000 for Relief in February, 1932

In each of five cities--New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Detroit, and Boston--February relief expenditures exceeded $1,000,000. In New York alone the reported relief was $7,129,096. Of this amount, $3,322,244 was administered in the form of wages by emergency work bureaus operating under both public and private auspices.

Examination of Table 2 reveals very striking variations from city to city in the amount of relief disbursed. Although many different factors govern these variations, chief among them are differences in size, in climate, in industrial development, in community resources, and in legislative program. In general, the cost of relief in relation to size of population is higher in the New England and North Atlantic cities than in other sections of the country.

Large Majority of Cities Report Marked Increases In Relief Since February of Last Year

Very material rise in relief expenditures between February, 1931, and February, 1932, is shown by the majority of cities in Table 2. Percentages of change between the two months are given for 87 cities. Of these,only 11 show decline from last year to this. For the group, the median percentage of increase is 83 per cent. As shown in Table 1, the aggregate figures of 976 agencies in 123 cities increased 69 per cent between February, 1931 and February, 1932.

Nine cities reporting increases of more than 200 per cent over February, 1931, are: Altoona, Bethlehem, Pittsburgh, Sioux City, Topeka,Wichita, Washington, Mobile, and New Orleans.

41 of 92 Cities Operated Work-Relief Programs in February, 1932

The prevalence and volume of work relief is apparent from analysis of the city figures. Of the 92 cities listed in Table 2, 41 reported the operation of work-relief programs in February of this year. In a number of other cities agencies functioning primarily on an outright-relief basis are giving small amounts of relief in the form of wages. The pay rolls of these agencies are not separately tabulated in this compilation, however.

32 Cities Present Incomplete Reports

The 32 cities listed below are participating in this study but they are omitted from Table 2,because reports received at the time of compilation

(continued on page 6)

Table 2. - Expenditures for outright and wage relief in February, 1932, and comparison with February, 1931, and January, 1932 -- 92 cities

The cities included in this table are those for which reports are believed to be complete or substantially complete. Unreported emergency relief in important amounts may have been given in some cities. These figures are presented subject to revision.

City and geographical division	Agencies or divisions of departments reporting	Amount of outright and wage relief			Per cent increase or decrease from		Amount of wage relief		
		February 1931	January 1932	February 1932	Jan., 1932 to Feb., 1932	Feb., 1931 to Feb., 1932	February 1931	January 1932	February 1932
New England									
Portland	6	(1)	$15,699	$18,549	18	(1)	(1)	-	-
Boston	13	$672,621	976,456	1,111,903	14	65	-	-	-
Brockton 2/	9	25,269	49,152	48,622	-1	92	-	-	-
Fall River	7	81,934	106,329	106,138	(3)	30	-	-	-
Lynn	9	65,652	95,537	99,058	4	51	-	-	-
Malden	7	22,995	36,511	38,894	7	69	692	-	-
New Bedford	7	75,313	89,277	92,764	4	23	-	-	-
Newton	9	(1)	22,958	25,677	12	(1)	(1)	7,410	9,873
Springfield	12	82,044	107,255	159,145	48	94	-	-	-
Worcester	8	132,074	171,544	182,389	6	38	-	-	-
Providence	11	66,514	150,630	138,816	-8	109	15,000	80,895	69,918
Bridgeport 2/	11	101,301	127,877	116,804	-9	15	37,223	63,659	45,783
Hartford	9	76,234	206,325	227,350	10	198	27,343	60,162	67,387
New Britain 2/	5	28,032	58,348	59,330	2	112	-	-	-
New Haven	10	140,120	94,949	114,050	20	-19	97,000	42,119	51,760
Middle Atlantic									
Albany 2/	11	43,704	102,250	79,864	-22	83	-	58,264	41,303
Buffalo	21	538,187	749,693	930,605	24	73	135,000	75,160	170,956
New York	26	3,318,298	6,478,245	7,129,096	10	115	1,285,215	3,315,760	3,222,244
Niagara Falls	10	49,833	82,464	111,050	35	123	15,000	19,360	36,129
Rochester	11	400,101	489,664	511,377	4	28	140,152	38,900	108,344
Syracuse	14	95,366	226,593	256,470	13	169	-	50,903	47,756
Yonkers	10	73,582	118,667	157,353	33	114	21,250	22,119	45,777
Allentown	3	23,027	29,829	40,811	37	77	-	-	-
Altoona	5	9,143	30,629	31,688	3	247	-	(4)	16,124
Bethlehem 5/	4	4,610	18,129	15,287	-16	232	-	-	-
Chester	11	17,618	13,114	35,219	169	100	-	-	-
Erie	6	36,822	61,883	83,394	35	126	-	4,916	4,778
Lancaster	6	11,772	15,799	17,151	9	46	-	-	-
Philadelphia	15	879,700	1,159,211	1,211,049	4	38	371,900	-	-
Pittsburgh	11	192,394	585,892	738,458	26	284	2,000	246,000	283,000
Scranton	5	23,993	38,793	45,460	17	89	-	-	-
Wilkes-Barre	5	40,392	82,876	90,456	9	124	-	-	-
East North Central									
Akron	11	62,097	101,550	117,749	16	90	-	43,512	56,672
Cincinnati	16	159,328	314,585	319,570	2	101	40,500	56,271	54,289
Cleveland	9	341,703	551,309	534,923	-3	57	56,561	-	-
Columbus	14	70,772	86,204	102,342	19	45	-	9,916	45,984
Toledo	6	157,773	143,142	119,086	-17	-25	55,695	-	-
Evansville	5	37,110	51,070	52,092	2	40	-	22,735	20,944
Fort Wayne	10	39,864	85,661	92,909	8	133	27,799	38,512	43,097
South Bend	6	35,471	54,194	50,970	-6	44	-	-	-
Terre Haute	6	9,473	14,576	14,938	2	58	-	-	-
Chicago	18	1,098,932	2,500,857	2,511,378	(3)	129	282,152	(6)	(6)
Cicero	4	8,444	16,713	17,561	5	108	-	-	-
Evanston	4	11,383	16,624	16,795	1	48	1,717	-	-
Oak Park	3	1,627	3,036	4,179	38	157	-	-	-

Evanston	3	1,627	1,792	1,827	(3)	-8			
Oak Park	3	1,065	14,052	14,827	(3)	-8			
Pontiac	5	41,063	90,885	93,356	3	127	-	-	-
Saginaw	4	51,309	47,177	46,643	-1	-9	-	-	-
Kenosha	8	40,176	36,839	71,935	95	79	-	-	-
Madison	5	12,136	18,313	33,851	85	179	-	-	-
Milwaukee	10	391,068	681,775	865,308	27	121	76,635	129,778	225,687
Racine 2/	5	46,970	79,479	82,051	3	75	-	-	-
West North Central									
Duluth	9	28,247	67,008	73,342	9	160	-	24,000	22,720
Minneapolis 2/	10	101,691	233,142	288,493	24	184	-	(6)	(6)
St. Paul	12	63,381	96,539	112,972	17	78	-	-	-
Sioux City	11	10,287	34,022	38,961	14	279	-	12,443	13,701
Kansas City, Mo.	12	107,058	99,281	94,137	-5	-12	51,217	3,207	-
St. Louis	13	134,316	234,300	236,237	1	76	24,293	-	-
Omaha	11	25,506	53,451	60,398	13	137	-	-	-
Kansas City, Kans.	4	11,544	14,897	17,371	17	50	-	-	-
Topeka	5	3,520	40,778	38,344	-6	989	-	37,966	35,839
Wichita	10	14,404	40,854	51,656	26	259	-	27,354	39,215
South Atlantic									
Wilmington 2/	6	79,408	123,340	93,241	-24	17	59,000	72,282	36,846
Baltimore 2/	7	88,438	177,340	227,338	28	157	-	-	-
Washington	12	45,214	110,318	139,934	27	209	7,502	54,940	76,159
Norfolk	9	14,858	10,691	17,233	61	16	10,898	-	-
Roanoke	4	4,443	4,049	4,438	10	(3)	-	-	-
Ashsville	3	(1)	7,407	9,068	22	(1)	(1)	-	5,215
Winston-Salem	2	9,450	5,909	6,701	13	-29	-	-	-
Charleston	5	2,199	1,176	2,287	94	4	-	-	-
East South Central									
Louisville	10	78,009	68,029	80,734	19	3	35,168	35,013	45,208
Knoxville	5	9,311	18,294	21,582	18	132	-	15,888	18,370
Memphis	7	57,539	12,238	13,573	11	-76	31,320	-	-
Nashville 2/	3	8,430	13,584	12,844	-5	52	-	-	-
Birmingham	4	45,895	73,821	85,339	16	86	27,714	12,154	6,842
Mobile	4	1,077	5,866	7,033	20	553	-	2,318	4,193
West South Central									
New Orleans 2/	10	8,161	55,044	62,365	13	664	-	44,944	52,472
Shreveport 2/	6	6,999	4,573	4,303	-6	-39	-	-	-
Dallas 2/	6	18,844	36,954	35,019	-5	86	-	25,000	19,874
Fort Worth	4	17,354	21,443	15,202	-29	-12	-	-	-
Houston	7	15,761	33,160	28,796	-13	83	-	-	-
Mountain and Pacific									
Seattle	11	(1)	94,855	172,959	55	(1)	8,159	10,125	83,174
Tacoma	7	17,880	24,612	34,304	39	92	-	-	-
Portland	6	121,893	255,402	298,324	17	145	85,000	193,183	213,014
Berkeley	7	21,447	38,415	41,952	9	96	5,092	11,165	13,079
Los Angeles 2/	9	477,943	562,243	589,349	5	23	71,129	40,669	31,128
Oakland	7	94,354	157,348	270,472	72	187	-	-	-
Sacramento	8	(1)	46,201	36,894	-20	(1)	(1)	-	-
San Diego	9	32,791	55,705	61,632	11	88	1,850	22,368	33,012
San Francisco	21	254,308	380,807	430,039	13	69	141,515	146,738	172,966

1/ Figures are not available.
2/ Reports of one or more important agencies known to be missing.
3/ Percentage is less than one.
4/ Amount of wage relief is not separately rsported but is included in total expenditures.
5/ In February, 1931, pay rolls for work on sewers and water mains were $29,151. As this is believed to have been ordinary public work rather than relief work it is not included above.
6/ Work relief, administered as an inoidental part of the program of one or more agencies, is not included hers.

(continued from page 3)

were either incomplete or in need of revision for one or more of the three months under comparison. Reports of some agencies in all but one of these cities are incorporated in Table 1. In the majority of excluded cities, figures of a single important agency are lacking.

New England
- Cambridge
- Lawrence
- Lowell
- Somerville

Middle Atlantic
- New Rochelle
- Utica
- Bayonne
- Camden
- The Oranges
- Jersey City
- Newark
- Paterson
- Trenton
- Harrisburg
- Reading

East North Central
- Canton
- Dayton
- Youngstown
- Indianapolis
- Flint

West North Central
- Des Moines

South Atlantic
- Richmond
- Huntington
- Atlanta
- Jacksonville
- Miami

West South Central
- Oklahoma City
- Tulsa
- El Paso
- San Antonio

Mountain and Pacific
- Denver
- Salt Lake City

Service to Homeless and Transients Increases in February. Rise in Meals Served, 3 Per Cent; in Night's Lodgings, 4 Per Cent

The daily average volume of service to transient and homeless persons increasd slightly in February over January according to data reported by 164 agencies in 64 cities,of which 27 have over 100,000, and 37 from 50,000 to 100,000 population. Very few largs cities are represented in this tabulation.

In February, 1932, in the 64 cities, which are widely scattered over the United States, a total of 1,450,820 meals and 492,103 night's lodgings were reported furnished;in the previous month msals numbered 1,511,995, and night's lodgings, 507,794. Slight decline between January and February is indicated by these aggregate figures.However, when the total figures are reduced to a daily average to adjust for the difference in the number of days in January and February, increase between the two months is apparent. As is shown in the tabulation below, the average number of meals served per day in February was 50,028 as against 48,774 in January; the daily average for lodgings was 16,969 in February, as against 16,380 in January.

Volume of service	February 1931	January 1932	February 1932
Meals:			
Number served	873,832	1,511,995	1,450,820
Daily average	31,208	48,774	50,028
Night's lodgings:			
Number provided	306,928	507,794	492,103
Daily average	10,962	16,380	16,969

Percentages computed on these daily averages show an increase between the two months of 3 per cent in meals served and of 4 per cent in night's lodgings provided. Percentages of change from January to February have also been computed on the average number of meals and lodgings per day for each of the 64 cities. For the group the median change in lodgings is an increase of 1 per cent; no change between the two months in volums of meal service is indicated by this method of measurement.

Per cent increase	Daily average	
	Meals	Night's lodgings
From Jan., 1932 to Feb., 1932		
Bassd on aggregates	3	4
Median	0	1
From Feb., 1931 to Feb., 1932		
Based on aggregates	60	55
Median	50	32

Heavy increase in the transient load from February, 1931, to February, 1932, is revealed by comparison of the daily averages for both meals and lodgings in these two months.The rise in meals served is 60 per cent and in night's lodgings provided, 55 per cent. The median percentages of increase between the two Februarys,based on the figures for individual cities, are 50 per cent for meals served and 32 per cent for night's lodgings furnished.

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